



# Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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**ST. PETERSBURG MAN WHO LED TAMPA POLICE  
ON HIGH-SPEED CHASE FOUND GUILTY OF  
FEDERAL DRUG AND GUN CHARGES**

Tampa, Florida - U.S. Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces that a federal jury yesterday found Aaron Cainion (31, of St. Petersburg), guilty of possessing cocaine with the intent to distribute it, possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, and possessing a firearm and ammunition after having been convicted of a felony. Cainion faces a minimum of fifteen years in federal prison and maximum of life imprisonment. His sentencing hearing is scheduled for September 28, 2010.

According to evidence presented at trial, on the evening of January 2, 2010, Hillsborough County Sheriff's deputies and Tampa Police Department (TPD) officers attempted to pull Cainion over for reckless driving on I-275 in Tampa. Cainion fled, leading the officers on a high-speed, 100 mph chase across the Howard Franklin Bridge and into St. Petersburg. During the chase, Cainion hit a police car and a private citizen's minivan. Officers eventually used a precision immobilization technique to end the chase.

When officers removed Cainion from the car, they found him in possession of more than 800 grams of cocaine, \$3,024, and a loaded Smith & Wesson 9mm handgun. Subsequent investigation revealed Cainion to be a convicted felon.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) and the Tampa Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Christopher F. Murray.